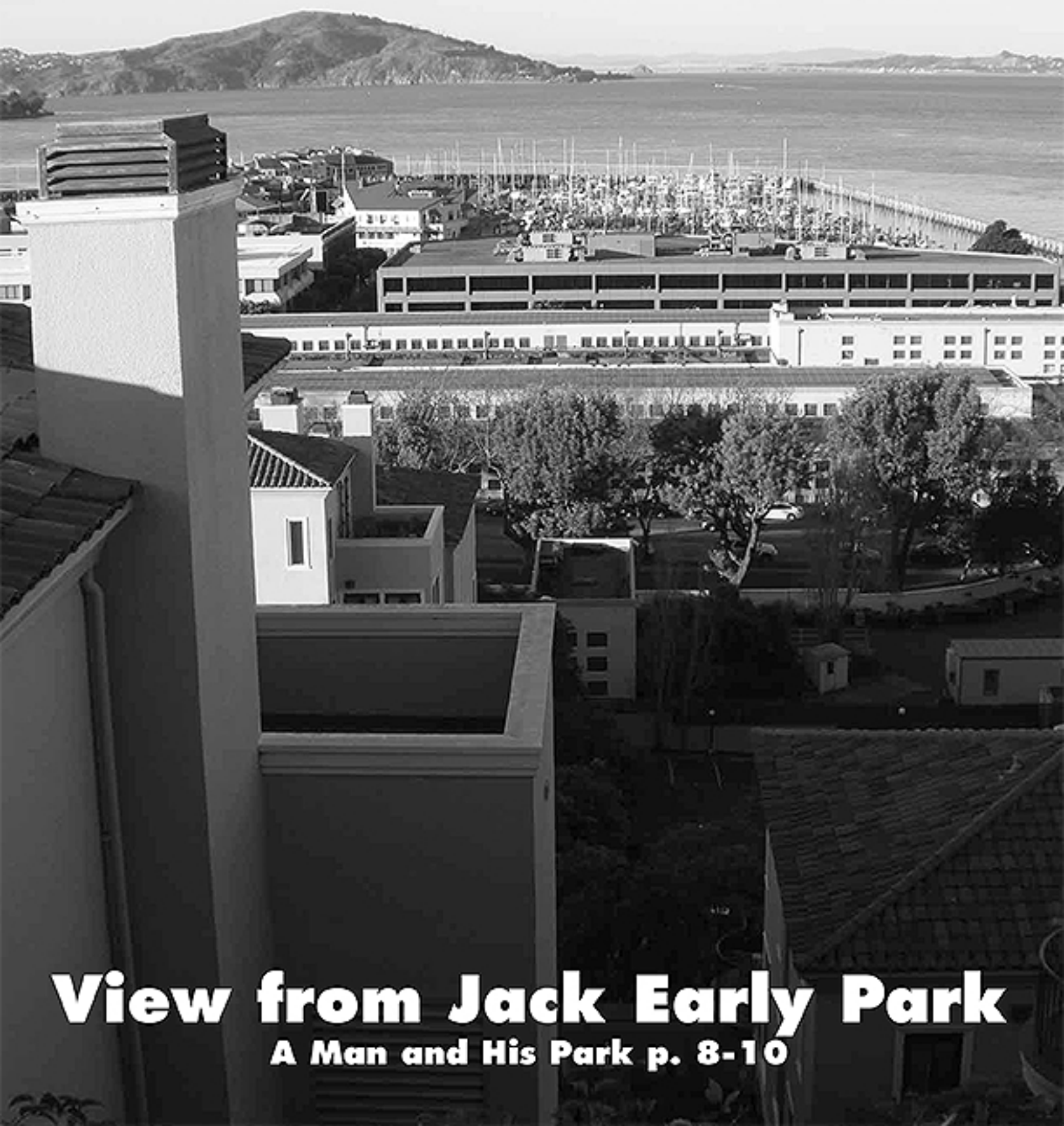


The Semaphore

A Publication of the TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS

Issue 202

Spring 2013



View from Jack Early Park

A Man and His Park p. 8-10

FRANCIS I



St. Francis Church as it is today
ALAN J. CANTERBURY COLLECTION, COURTESY OF THE SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY HISTORY CENTER



The church as it looked back in 1880
COURTESY OF LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION

By Patricia Cady

Before California was officially a state, St. Francis of Assisi Church occupied its North Beach site as a parish church — a clapboard affair, hastily put up by soldiers from the Presidio for two French-speaking priests from Oregon who celebrated Mass in July of 1849; they lived behind the tiny altar ministering to a frantic community of gold-rushers. A bull ring was established next door.

The building was succeeded by a good-size adobe church for a growing congregation of immigrants. It served as the first cathedral in a new diocese where Monterey's bishop ordained California's first priest, John Quinn. Ten years later, work began on the current Norman Gothic church whose walls and towers sustained the shaking of the 1906 earthquake, though fire consumed its interior. A restoration decision to steel-reinforce the church helped prevent damage from future earthquakes.

Inside, new murals expressing Francis's life were painted; fine stained-glass windows were installed and the church was rededicated in 1919 — looking pretty much the way it looks today. A Schoenstein organ brought fame to the church for its almost perfect acoustics. A single bell was donated (reputedly by one of the early missions) because, in Francis's time, it was customary for villagers to greet the peripatetic saint with whatever bells they had.

Suddenly, in 1992, the church was worth more dead than alive to its owner. Before much was heard about clerical pedophilia, sky-high premiums electrified dioceses around the country that couldn't pay their insurance bills. San Francisco's archbishop, ironically named John Quinn, was the first to act. He closed 10 churches, St. Francis of Assisi among them. Its parish was suppressed (meaning, on paper, it no longer exists); assets were seized and the congregation was unceremoniously kicked out. Many believed the churches were targeted for their real estate values, but only one was sold and demolished, for the Jewish Community Center's parking lot.

Pending sale, the rest were abandoned. Maintenance ceased; despite pleas to city agencies, they were becoming eyesores: a frequent tactic of reluctant landmark owners. Locked-out congregants from most of the closed churches banded together against a beleaguered chancery. Canon lawyers were hired by some neighborhoods that sent representatives to Rome. St. Francis's advocates sent appeals directly to the pope, and to anyone who could conceivably influence him to overturn Archbishop Quinn's decision.

One day, an oddly secretive construction crew showed up to work on, not the church, but its large rectory building next door, which was quietly leased to Frank Lembe, a reputed slum lord who, with the Hotel Group of America, converted the former priests' home

into a commercial bed-and-breakfast enterprise. No work permits were posted (or obtained), and it was only coincidental that the advertisement for *Pensione d'Assisi* was spotted in a travel magazine. Due to overwhelming objections by outraged locals, the Planning Department didn't issue an operating permit for the *pensione*, but took no action when the building was, instead, used for single-room-occupancy by tenants who, if questioned, were warned to say that they were just visiting the caretaker.

When owners circumvent laws regulating properties, their success can depend on friends in high places. Then-Mayor Willie Brown, who had allegedly served the archdiocese as a consultant, was in a position to protect his client's financial interests. Whether he did in this case can't be proved, but soon after Brown's term as mayor expired, the illegal rooming house was shut down.

After seven years, a new sheriff came to town. The Vatican replaced John Quinn with Archbishop (now Cardinal) William Levada, who reopened the closed churches, except St. Brigid, which was ultimately sold to the Academy of Art University. In 1998, an order of Franciscan Friars took residence at St. Francis and for the next seven years filled it with ceremony and music, while Levada worked with national bishops to designate the church the National Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi, the only such entity outside of — Assisi, Italy. Former Supervisor Angela Alioto (the daughter of 1970s Mayor Joe Alioto, in whose term

the Transamerica Pyramid was built,) had a vision, then a plan, to replicate a small church Francis himself had rebuilt in the 1200s. The *Porziuncola* (meaning, "my little place") was built with stones collected from the original site and sits beside the church on the site of the former Marini Gym; both are ecumenical, meaning they're open to persons of all faiths. At present, another order of friars is in ministry; the music has stopped, but a new elevator is going in, which some see as renaissance.

Rumor has it that Pope Francis I will put San Francisco on his 2014 itinerary, conceivably visiting the National Shrine. It's unlikely that he'll order a cappuccino at Caffè Trieste across the street, but will likely know the story of the 164-year-old North Beach landmark church which has just one bell, which we shall certainly ring.



St. Francis Church survived the 1906 earthquake
J.B. MONACO COLLECTION, COURTESY OF RICHARD MONACO, SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY HISTORY CENTER



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

THE BACKS OF THEIR HEADS



By Vedica Puri
President, THD

At a recent community meeting at Pier 27 to discuss the America's Cup, I walked in late and all of the seats were taken. I immediately recognized some long-standing THD members: Nan Roth, Stewart Morton and Pat Shean. The trick was I was standing behind them and recognized each of them by the back of their heads. Is it that we have all gotten to know each other too well? The more likely answer is that many of us have seen (if not sat behind) these and other equally dedicated members at numerous events and hearings over the years. The dedication of our members never ceases to amaze me. On behalf of the THD Board of Directors, I want to thank all of you who come to hearings, write e-mails and letters and generally pay attention to what is going on in your neighborhood. Our outgoing president, Jon Golinger, deserves much praise for his long hours and good work in protecting Coit Tower and safeguarding the waterfront. A special thanks to Jon and outgoing board members, Katherine Petrin, Sarah Kliban and Carlos Arreglo.

Tending to the haven that is Telegraph Hill and its surroundings may not be easy, but it is so very rewarding. I once read a great article about just this topic, author Kristi Blicharski said, in part:

"In today's light-speed, electronically connected world, we are bombarded daily by social media, text messages, e-mail, voice mail, snail mail, tweets, event invitations, and somewhere among those, we try to find a little mental down time to keep our sanity.

How is it that with all this social and personal interaction going on, so many of us are experiencing a palpable emptiness and lack of connection that is hard to pinpoint?

I recently attended a community tree planting in my Los Angeles neighborhood, Woodland Hills, where over 200 local residents, business owners and elected officials came out early on a Saturday morning to improve a stretch of Ventura Boulevard by digging into the dirt together as part of Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's Million Trees initiative.

I was standing, shovel in hand, with two fellow volunteers looking out at the vast assembly of our neighbors, who were digging, laughing, trading gardening gloves and wearing "I planted a tree" t-shirts. There was an amazing moment when the three of us were simultaneously moved emotionally by the sense of community in the air. We stood in silence, just watching. It had the feel of an old-fashioned barn-raising.

When we get involved and share ourselves through volunteering for causes we're passionate about, or even simply attending events supporting local organizations, it doesn't just benefit our community; it benefits our own emotional fitness.

It's logical that community connection and the feeling of giving back are essential ingredients in our everyday sense of joy and well-being. It's also probably safe to say that human beings

have a natural instinct, even a need, to help one another. But, with busy work schedules, home life and the convenience of social media to keep us "posted" on what our friends, acquaintances and even our frenemies are up to, we are fooling ourselves into thinking that we have enough social and community connection in our lives, when the truth for most of us is that we're sorely lacking.

The healthy feelings of giving, of connecting in person and coming together with our peers to do good cannot be replaced by texting, e-mailing, or clicking on a link that gives a penny to a charitable cause.

So, where to begin giving back while filling the spacious void in our souls caused by participation deprivation?"

—Blicharski, Kristi. "A Sense of Community: Increase Your Joy by Getting Involved"

Posted: 05/ 9/11, *Huffingtonpost.com*

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kristi-blicharski/community-service-in-los-angelesngeles_b_859589.html

The author went on to give her own suggestions to answer that question and here is mine — whatever your interest, whatever your talent — there is a place for you in THD. Make the back of your head known. ✂

The Lilly Hitchcock Coit Memorial Literary Society

meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month. For more information, contact Carol Peterson at 956-7817.

LET YOUR NEIGHBORS KNOW YOUR BUSINESS!

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If you let your neighbors know about your business we can work together to keep our voice in the neighborhood thriving. Take out an ad in *The Semaphore* for your business or service, or contact a business that you like and ask them to take out an ad. Here are our reasonable THD ad rates:

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FROM THE DESK OF **SUPERVISOR CHIU**



Strengthening our Ethics Laws

A few weeks ago, I joined City Attorney Dennis Herrera to introduce legislation to strengthen San Francisco's ethics laws. The wide-ranging measures would tighten rules and enhance transparency for City Hall lobbyists, permit expeditors and influential developers and improve city contracting, procurement and grant-making practices to promote greater oversight and fiscal accountability. The legislation also encourages reporting compliance by public officials and expands access to ethics information for non-English speakers. I believe these reforms, which I hope to bring to the board in June, will increase our public's confidence in the everyday workings of local government.

Progress on Broadway

I am excited to report progress in our efforts to improve the Broadway corridor. Following a series of meetings with my office, neighborhood residents, the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD), the Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD), the District Attorney's office, the Sheriff, the Department of Public Works (DPW) and other City departments, a number of commitments were made to increasing resources and attention on Broadway. As a result, over the past several weekends we have seen a marked increase in SFPD personnel on Broadway as well as a crackdown by the California Highway Patrol on violations by party buses. DPW began doing late night street cleaning on

Saturdays after the bars close to help clear away crowds. I have gotten a commitment from the sheriff to bring the mobile "jail" (a bus processing facility) on weekend nights to assist SFPD and serve as a deterrent; however, we are still working to secure funding.

The most exciting Broadway news, though, is that on May 7th I introduced legislation at the Board of Supervisors that will enable the election for the formation of the Top of Broadway Community Benefit District (CBD). I want to express my sincere thanks to all of the neighborhood residents, businesses and city staff who have been working hard on all of these efforts.

8 Washington's Impact on our Sewer Infrastructure: May 9 Hearing

A few months ago, e-mails and documents from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) raised troubling questions about the impact of the proposed 8 Washington Street luxury condo project on the North Force Main. The Main is a key piece of sewer infrastructure that serves much of northeastern San Francisco, and protecting it -- on a day-to-day basis and in case of an earthquake -- is a crucial public safety issue. A hearing was held on May 9 at City Hall to determine, among other topics, why it took a Sunshine request to bring this problem to light, and what we should do about it.

Upcoming Budget Deliberations

I will be hosting a Budget Town Hall with Supervisor

Mark Farrell and Mayor Ed Lee on Saturday, May 18, at 10:00 a.m. at Galileo High School.

I hope residents will take this opportunity to tell the city how it should prioritize funding to meet the needs of our neighborhoods. My hope is that our improving economy will mean next year's budget will be balanced without significant cuts. I will work hard with my colleagues to make sure that we pass a budget that preserves current funding for key services -- and enhances them where possible. My priorities continue to include funding for senior and family services as well as park, streetscape and public transportation improvements. You can find more information about the budget process, including a calendar of events and all related documents, on the Board of Supervisors website. I am also proud to have worked with the City Controller and Mayor Lee on a new budget tool called SF Open Book that will help improve transparency on where your tax money is going.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me or my staff with your feedback, questions and ideas for a better Telegraph Hill, District 3 and City!

Office of Supervisor David Chiu
President, San Francisco Board of Supervisors
City Hall, Room 264
San Francisco, CA 94102
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NORTH BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY

By Mike Madrid

While it may seem that any discussion of crime in North Beach is a bad thing, the best way to deal with any problem is to talk about it. Sharing information with your neighbors and the officers at Central Station on Vallejo Street is an important way to prevent crime. As the Telegraph Hill representative to the Central District Police Advisory Board (CPAB), I meet with Captain Garrett Tom on a regular basis. So, I not only get information about criminal activities in our district, but citywide as well.

Let's start with the good news. Violent crime is lower in North Beach than in other parts of San Francisco. In 2012, North Beach had only one homicide. So far in 2013, we have not had any. This may seem like small consolation, but it attests to the safety of our neighborhood. Much of the violence that Central Station deals with results from fights in neighborhood bars. Statistics on muggings or attacks on North Beach residents are harder to gauge because these incidents are not always reported to the police. I cannot stress enough how important it is to report an assault or robbery. You may assume that if you won't get your stolen items back there's no point in reporting a crime. But the police can only try to prevent crime if they know where problems are occurring.

North Beach does have a serious problem with theft. Auto burglaries are among the highest in San Francisco. One reason for this is that our neighborhood attracts so many tourists, and they are often careless about securing valuables in their cars. The famous lack of available parking in North Beach means that residents often need to park their cars blocks from their homes. Leaving your car in a spot that is perhaps remote and far from your watchful eye provides thieves with more opportunity to break in. It's important not to leave any valuables in your car, even locked in the trunk. Also, thieves target many parking garages in the area. Don't assume that if your car is off the street it will be safe.

As far as personal thefts go, iPhones and iPads continue to be the top items that thieves steal. Take a look around restaurants and cafes in North Beach and you'll often see these devices casually laying on tables. It only takes a second for a thief to sweep up your iPhone when your head is turned. Captain Tom recommends adding the free Lookout app to your smart phone or tablet, which helps locate the device if it's stolen. Central Station also advises residents not use their iPhones on public transit or while waiting at bus stops. While this warning may seem a bit dire, the key is to be aware of your surroundings. If you are walking home at 10 p.m.

and are engrossed in a conversation on your iPhone, you are making yourself a target for a criminal who may rob you, or worse. Common sense and vigilance are among the most important tools to prevent crime.

Another problem in North Beach is thieves accessing people's accounts at the Bank of America ATM. Thieves employ a method where they can access a bank patron's account a few seconds after a transaction is completed and withdraw money. Bank of America is working to fix this problem. In the meantime, it pays to be cautious. Be aware of suspicious people loitering around the ATM and always take a minute or so after your transaction is complete for the screen to reset itself.

As I mentioned earlier, it is important to report any crime to the police. It's the only way that they can work to stop crime from happening. If you see any suspicious activity, you can always call the SFPD non-emergency line at 415-553-0123 to report it. Get to know your neighbors. Many North Beach residents have set up e-mail groups with their neighbors so that they can share information. Or you can contact San Francisco SAFE to help you set up a neighborhood watch in your area. (sfsafe.org)

If you have any comments or issues that you would like me to address at future CPAB meetings, feel free to e-mail me at Mike.Madrid@thd.org.

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60 YEARS OF CITY LIGHTS

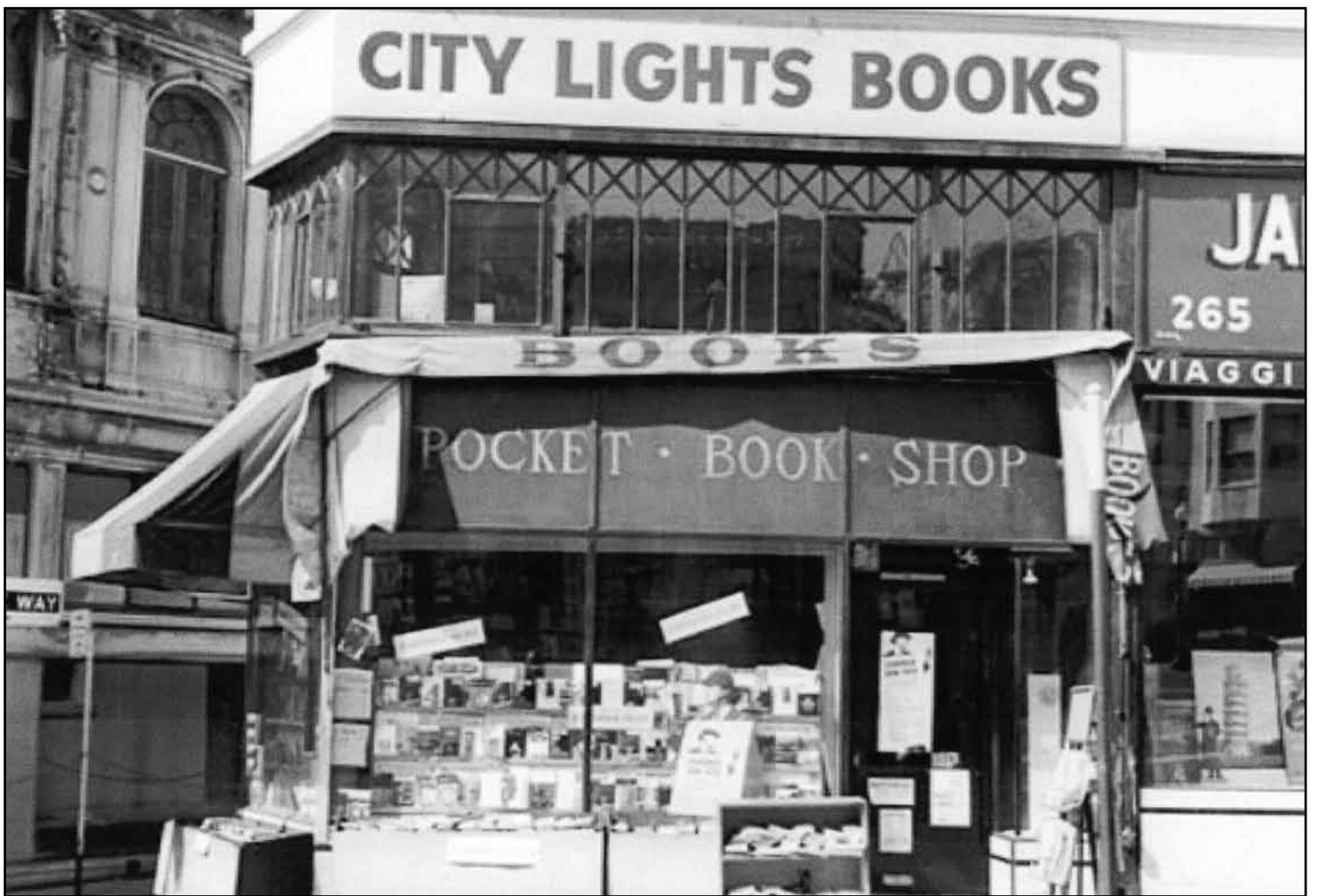
From the City Lights Bookstore website citylights.com ~

City Lights Bookstore is turning 60! Join us at the bookstore & online as we celebrate all year long.

Founded in 1953 in a small shop at the corner of Columbus Avenue and Broadway in San Francisco's North Beach neighborhood, City Lights Bookstore is celebrating its 60th anniversary. Still in its original location, the store has expanded over the years to fill the entire building, sharing it with the offices of the fabled City Lights Publishing Company. City Lights Booksellers & Publishers continues to be owned by its original co-founder, poet, painter, publisher and defender of free speech, Lawrence Ferlinghetti.

Our yearlong celebration will feature a number of special anniversary events, both in the bookstore and beyond. We'll be inviting everyone to join us on Sunday, June 23rd, 2013 for a birthday party open house at the bookstore — mark your calendars now, and start planning your trip to San Francisco!

If you can't make it in person, you can join in the celebration online. Throughout the year we'll be featuring historical photos, stories, reminiscences and more here on the City Lights Blog. Keep up with us on Facebook, Pinterest, and check out our Twitter feed, for up-to-the-minute news on events and postings.



City Lights Bookstore 1950s

SAN FRANCISCO ARTS COMMISSION COLLECTION, SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY HISTORY CENTER

SUNDAY, JUNE 23RD, 2013 BIRTHDAY PARTY & OPEN HOUSE

Our neighbors are warmly invited to join us as we celebrate our 60th year!! We will have flash readings, a silent auction, archival footage, special discounts, and more in the bookstore.

Mark your calendars now!

The birthday party kicks off a special series of events in the bookstore and throughout the city, along with curated events Sundays in Jack Kerouac Alley, hosted by some of our editors, writers, artists & friends of City Lights.


These events and dates are subject to change, and more events are in the offing, to be announced as details are finalized. Stay tuned and check our calendar for updates and details. **Check the City Lights website at citylights.com for details on additional events throughout 2013.**

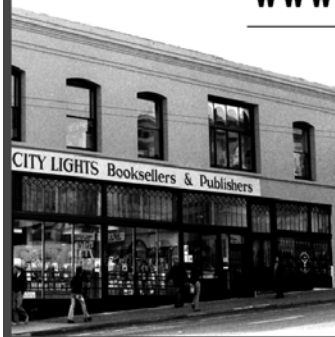
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STOUT ON STOUT

WILLIAM STOUT IN HIS OWN WORDS

I arrived in San Francisco in 1967 and practiced architecture for many years. I realized there wasn't a bookshop devoted to architecture and the design arts in the city. So, with my fondness for books and architecture, in 1974 I started a small shop in my apartment at 1218 Montgomery St. on Telegraph Hill. At the time, it was the Melvin Belli house and apartments. It had a courtyard entrance with a large pepper tree in it. The views from the second-floor shop were wonderful, 180-degree views of downtown, from the Bay

Bridge to Russian Hill. It was a reading room with a great view.

The inventory for the shop was my own library and a few books I had bought on a recent trip to Europe. I used bookshops I had visited and bought from over the years. I used George Wittenborn and Jaap Rietman in New York City as a model. I was open three hours a day, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., and all day on Saturdays. There were many architecture and design offices surrounding Telegraph Hill and the Jackson Square area so it was a good location to start.

It became apparent that I would need a larger audience, so I published a catalog and sent it to prospective clients. That has carried through to today as we still publish a catalog as well as an online website. The clients included architects, artists, university libraries and the general public. My focus was to include publishers from around the world as well as the best publishers in the United States.

In 1977, with the apartment getting too small, I moved the shop to 17 Osgood Alley, off of Broadway, where I would have a first-floor entry. The new shop was small with a series of small rooms devoted to specific design categories. It had windows on the alley that could display the books and notices of events in the area. It was a wonderful shop with a courtyard in the rear for garden parties and events. This shop was open from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. every day except Sunday. Our inventory was very good and we had many magazines from all parts of the world. It became a meeting place and reading room for locals.

Eventually, I moved to the current Jackson Square site at 804 Montgomery, near Gold Alley. The space was quite large with two floors, so I had my architectural practice and living quarters in the basement. Later, I moved the living quarters and my office as the



Interior of bookstore

BOTH PHOTOGRAPHS BY JULIE JAYCOX

basement became part of the store. Having the shop has allowed me to develop my personal design and architectural library. For years I have gone to Europe and the Frankfurt Book Fair to select books for the shop. I have never objected to buying books of importance that aren't in English. The subject or architect was the most important issue. My wife, architect Paulett Taggart, has traveled the world with me searching for new titles. Specialized booksellers have a common bond and share information about unique titles and are always helpful in finding obscure architecture.

In 2011, I opened a second shop in Berkeley on Solano, 1605. I specialize in rare and out-of-print books with a small selection of new books. I also have a publishing company in Richmond where we produce two to four books per year. We republished a book in 2011 on the architect Gordon Drake, who did a building on Telegraph Hill in the 1950s. Our newest title will be a book on Donald Olsen, a Berkeley architect and professor for years at the University of California.



804 MONTGOMERY STREET — THE BUILDING

The building we now know as 804 Montgomery has a long and interesting history in what is the oldest remaining commercial area in San Francisco, the Jackson Square Historic District.

It was here at the northeast corner of Jackson and Montgomery streets that Civil War General William Tecumseh Sherman established the branch Bank of Lucas, Turner and Co., in 1853. Most of Montgomery Street was built on landfill in Yerba Buena Cove. Sherman called Montgomery Street "the worst bog and succession of mud holes masquerading as a street in the United States," according to reporter Larry D. Hatfield in the *San Francisco Examiner* dated Feb. 18, 1999.

According to the Historic American Buildings Survey, the building was designed by architect Peter Portois and built in 1854, the last major building before the depression of 1853-1854. It was a four-story, brick-and-stucco building with a granite ground floor.

Each floor had cast iron balconies and the building was crowned with an octagonal pavilion and cupola. The cupola was removed in 1868. The following is an excerpt from the website "NoeHill" (www.noehill.com), adapted from the San Francisco City Planning Commission Resolution No. 6388, dated June 26, 1969:

"The Bank of Lucas, Turner and Co. was designed by Reuben Clark in the Italianate style typical of early San Francisco. The classical façade faces Montgomery Street, the main business street at the time. The ground floor is built from well cut and fitted granite blocks. The granite is not from California, and is variously said to be from the eastern United States or from China. Originally three stories high, the building cost \$53,000, a large sum for the day.

Construction by Keyser and Brown in 1853-1854

was supervised by William Tecumseh Sherman, later to become General of the (Union) Armies during the Civil War. The Bank of Lucas, Turner and Co. moved into its impressive new building during the summer of 1854, but the enterprise was bankrupt by 1857.

Over the years, tenants came and went as this section of Montgomery Street yielded cachet to Montgomery Street addresses between California and Market streets. In 1906, *Eiffel Tower*, a French restaurant, occupied the ground floor with lodging above.

The 1906 earthquake and fire damaged the third story which was removed. The restaurant remained until 1924, the lodgings even longer. A sausage factory shared part of the ground floor in the 1920s. In later years, a Chinese soy sauce factory was located here. In the 1950s, with the revival of Jackson Square, the building was converted for use by decorators."

As we can see on the sign of the vintage image taken in 1934, the building was also once occupied by the Ace Carpenter Shop. Now 804 Montgomery is a double landmark; San Francisco Landmark No. 26 and California Landmark No. 453. The historic marker plaque at the site reads:

Site of the Bank of Lucas, Turner & Co. (Sherman's Bank)

William Tecumseh Sherman established the branch bank of Lucas, Turner & Co. in San Francisco in 1853. He settled the firm in its own building on the northeast corner of Jackson and Montgomery Streets in the spring of 1854. Sherman successfully carried the bank through the financial crisis of 1855, and remained until they discontinued business in 1857.

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DEDICATED JAN. 17, 1950



William Stout Architectural Books at its current location, 804 Montgomery Street



804 Montgomery Street in 1934

COURTESY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



WATERFRONT COMMITTEE REPORT



By Jon Golinger

Spring is in the air and there is no better place to celebrate it than on our beautiful northern waterfront. Here are some of the latest developments shaping the waterfront we love and are working to protect.



THD member Amy Loewen watches water-funnel forming
PHOTO: JON GOLINGER

Welcome to the Exploratorium

On Sunday, April 14th, several dozen THD members visited the new Exploratorium museum at Pier 15 for a “sneak-peek” preview of this newest and most welcome addition to our waterfront. Over the last several years, THD worked with Exploratorium staff to help them develop a pier rehabilitation plan that integrated their science and cultural exhibits with the character of the historic waterfront while allowing them to add a modest new café and “Bay View” structure and outdoor interactive exhibits that allow visitors to engaged in experiments with wind, sediment, water and color that affect the bay. My personal favorite is the outdoor “fog machine” that periodically blasts pillows of clouds on

unsuspecting visitors, who suddenly can’t see the person holding their hand.

Be sure to check out the free informational exhibit in the front of the Pier 15 shed, which walks you through a history of the creation of this pier and tells the story of some of the workers who labored to build it. Also, the public walkway around the Exploratorium is free and open to the public. So the next time you walk or run along the Embarcadero, add a detour around Pier 15 to your route — it’s worth it.

Pier 29 Burned, But Rebuilt

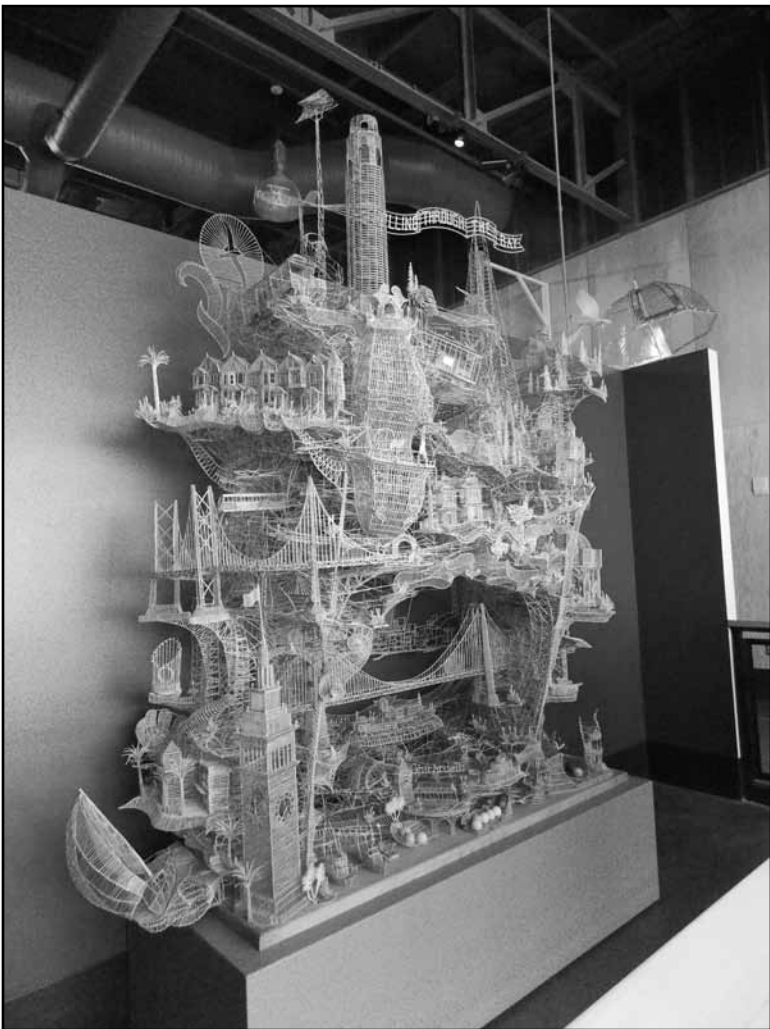
The four-alarm fire last June that destroyed the façade and half of Pier 29, costing nearly \$2.4 million in damage, was accidentally started by welders working to make improvements in time for the America’s Cup races this summer. It was incredibly sad to witness the collapse of the façade of the beautiful pier, as I did while standing next to Port Director Monique Moyer. However, this sad story has a happy ending. Thanks to the immediate response by port staff and the persistence of preservation groups and THD urging that the historic pier shed had to be quickly rebuilt, the Pier 29 shed will soon be out from under its big white tarp. More than 90 percent of the funds to pay for the rebuilding were covered by the port’s

insurance company. The rebuilding project included modernizing the fire sprinkler system to minimize the chances of any such accidents causing such extensive damage again.

8 Washington Ballot Box Battle

The issue of height limits on the waterfront will go to the voters this November in the form of one, and possibly two, ballot measures, which will ask voters to approve dramatically increased height limits at 8 Washington Street to facilitate a controversial luxury condo tower. THD has been working to protect existing waterfront height limits for decades, and has teamed up with the Sierra Club, the citywide Coalition for

San Francisco Neighborhoods and civic groups, including Democratic Clubs in the Richmond District, Tenderloin and Potrero Hill, as part of the No Wall on the Waterfront Coalition urging voters to vote No on the 8 Washington height increase ballot measures in November. For more information, or the latest news about this battle, please visit www.NoWallOnTheWaterfront.com



Coit Tower and other city icons built from . . . toothpicks
PHOTO: JON GOLINGER

America’s Cup Events Reach Starting Line

This summer will see the start of the much-anticipated America’s Cup events, including both the sailing races and a series of concerts that will take place between Piers 27 and 29. The first concert event is scheduled for the evening of Friday, May 31, and 14 other evening concerts in June, July, August and September are currently scheduled. Most of the events will take place on weeknights. After the concert events were announced in January, THD joined with other neighborhood groups and homeowners’ associations to engage America’s Cup officials and the Live Nation concert promoters in a series of community meetings and discussions to minimize any negative impacts on the neighborhood from noise, traffic, parking and security problems. While many questions remain as the concert series begins, we are glad that we were able to work with the America’s Cup and Live Nation to put reasonable limits on their events and help them be “good neighbors” throughout the summer. A special thanks to THD members Joe Luttrell and Stan Hayes who have worked with me and dedicated many hours sorting through these issues and offering constructive solutions adopted by the America’s Cup and city officials.

The America’s Cup sailing races will officially begin on Friday, July 5th with fleet racing for the challenging teams from Sweden, New Zealand and Italy and the defending champion U.S.A. team. Between July 7 and September 6, the challengers will race on afternoons several days each week to determine which team will face Team U.S.A. during the final races in mid-September. The finish line for all races will be on the bay off Pier 29, with free public viewing available at the end of the piers.

Here’s hoping that the biggest winner of all of these events will be showcasing for the rest of the world how beautiful and worth protecting San Francisco’s historic waterfront really is.



Night time film screened on front of Exploratorium at Pier 15

PHOTO: JON GOLINGER



FINOCCHIO'S: THE CARNEGIE HALL OF CROSS DRESSING

By Art Peterson

On Nov. 27, 1999, the day Finocchio's night club was to close, owner Eve Finocchio answered the phone as she had for many years. "Forget your troubles and woes and join us at Finocchio's, family owned since 1936."

As the premier female impersonist club this side of New York City, Finocchio's, at 506 Broadway, "where all the most beautiful women are men," did, indeed, have a long run, entertaining over its 63 years existence an estimated 300,000 patrons. Eve, by 1999 in her 80s, and running the club on her own since her husband Joe died in 1986, had decided to hang it up. Business was off ("People seem content to rent a movie and stay home."), and her rent was being increased from \$4,000 to \$6,000 a month. Furthermore, in San Francisco since the 1970s, a man dressed as a woman was no longer exotic.

Thus, a venerable tradition came to an end, even one that predates the Broadway club. The original Finocchio's opened as a speakeasy at 408 Stockton St. in 1929. There were no Gray Line buses lining up at this sanctuary for "bohemians and artists." One of its denizens was Harry Hay, a founder of the Mattachine Society, a pioneering gay rights organization before the word "gay" or even "homosexual" were common. In an oral history collected by Chris Carlsson, Hay described the club protocol. "A waiter might approach you with a bottle of wine and a card sent over by a young man. If you weren't interested, you turned over your glass and that would be it. If you were interested, the waiter would fill your glass and bring another. Then the young man would come over and the waiter would introduce him."

Female impersonators were part of this scene, particularly one performer who drew enthusiastic crowds with an imitation of the legendary Sophie Tucker. The Finochios, Joe and his wife Marjorie (who according to Hay, as "Madam Finocchio," was the prime mover behind the club), moved the club to Broadway, but with a difference. Their prime audience for the new club would be heterosexual.

They hired men, mostly gay, but some straight and married, who knew how to dress as women, nudged along by a bountiful collection of wigs, feathers and lashes. The cast of usually 16 was fascinatingly authentic. "I wish I had legs like that," the females in the audience would regularly enthuse. For those patrons who needed additional convincing, the MC had some advice. "The more you drink, the better we look," he would say.

In addition to being able to turn oneself out as a beauty there were additional requirements. Foremost, most of the performers had to be able to sing like Judy Garland or Barbra Streisand or some other established diva, no pantomimes allowed, a demand that eliminated



Finocchio's cast, June 28, 1958

COURTESY OF THE SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY HISTORY CENTER

many a beautiful baritone.

Further, the Finochios ran a tight ship. Performers who arrived and left the club were expected to dress as men. "We were illusionists, not transvestites," said one of the show's stars, David de Alba. Joe Finocchio would claim he had the "cleanest show on Broadway," but in the early days the police were not convinced. The exotic club had its share of raids. One bust came for selling liquor after 2:00 a.m. A *Chronicle* reporter noted the arrest came at 1:45 a.m. Joe did everything he could to avoid trouble. "They told me that if I run the place straight everything would be fine. They don't want the entertainers to mingle around the customers. I promised to run it like a regular theater."

There was another dustup in 1943 when the club was found to be selling booze to military personnel "outside of authorized hours." Joe agreed to limit drinking hours for the military to between 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

Of course, even with all the policing and self-policing, boys will be boys. "Stage-door Johnnies" were never in short supply. There were stories of after-hours carryings on with celebrities such as Errol Flynn and David Niven. When Howard Hughes saw the show with his then-girlfriend Ava Gardner, he returned to the club and whisked away one of the performers for what

turned out to be an extended relationship.

In general though the goings on were squeaky clean. One young man arriving from the Midwest seeking out his sexual identity, was disappointed upon arriving at the famous club when he was confronted by "men streaming in and out of the entrance, appearing overwhelming guy-like. They belched and patted their bloated bellies and spat more than seemed possible."

On the street, Finocchio's had a not altogether deserved reputation as a tourist trap. The cast put on four shows, six nights a week, and, for \$3.50 admission in the 1970s; one could stay all evening at that price. There was no drink minimum, a high ball was \$1.25, and an additional 25 cents would get you a Mai Tai.

Mostly what brought people to the club was the quality of the entertainers. There was the elegant MC Carroll Wallace, opening the show with the line, "In New York, Mr. Ziegfeld glorified the American girl ... Here at Finocchio's, we glorify the American boy." He would then launch into his trademark song, "I'm a singer, but I haven't gotta voice," and other standard patter such as, "If you want to take pictures of the performers, please give them time to pose."

Lucina Phelps, the Sophie Tucker expert, straight and married with children, starred at the club for 27 years. Lavern Cummings, a dazzling beauty and another long-time performer, was able to startle his audience by taking his high falsetto voice to a deep baritone.

Not every performer fit the mold of a standard beauty. Russell Reed, for instance, weighed in at 300 pounds, billing himself as the "ton of fun." A master of special facial inflections and gestures, his hilarious striptease that took him down to his red pajamas was an audience favorite.

Then there was Elton Paris, who would wander on stage with a deadpan expression, wearing dowdy women's street clothes and tennis shoes, making people laugh before he said a word. Like Lavern Cummings, he could drop his falsetto voice down into the baritone range as he demonstrated on the song "Spinning Wheel" ("What goes up must come down").

Perhaps the most successful of the performers outside the confines of the club was the 6-foot-6 comedian Lori Shannon, who went on to a supporting role as Archie Bunker's drag queen friend in "All in the Family."

While all this was going on, the Finocchio family remained very much in charge. Night after night, Joe would escort guests to their seats. The Finocchio children, and later the grandchildren, served drinks. The family did have some ups and downs. When Joe divorced Marjorie and married Eve, Marjorie retained part ownership of the club, and she would not allow Eve through the door. When Marjorie died, Eve took charge. After that it was said that a sure way to get fired from the club was to launch into the old song, "Margie."

By 1999, Tallulah Bankhead, Frank Sinatra, Bob Hope and the other glitterati who once inhabited the club, were gone. Even the tour buses came only occasionally. Eve planned no special ceremony for the closing. Just the regulars doing their Whitney Houston and Madonna bits. But when Lawrence Ferlinghetti got the word that Finocchio's was no more, he spoke for all of North Beach. "What a drag," he said.

✦



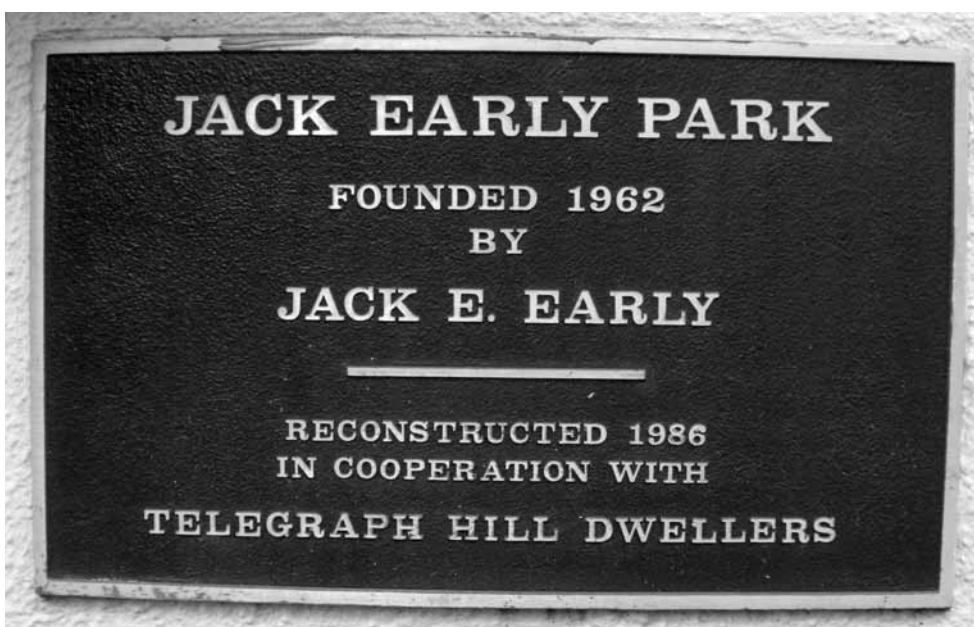
Finocchio's, 506 Broadway, June 11, 1964

ALAN J. CANTERBURY COLLECTION, COURTESY OF THE SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY HISTORY CENTER

JACK EARLY PARK



Entrance to Jack Early Park on Grant Avenue



A quiet corner in the park

Jack Early Park is located on Grant Avenue between Francisco and Chestnut.
These photographs speak for themselves and the park speaks for the neighborhood.
—**Editor**

~ PHOTOGRAPHS BY JULIE JAYCOX ~



JACK EARLY — A TRIBUTE

A number of Jack's friends have contributed their recollections for this tribute.

Jack Early's Obituary

by J.L. Pimsleur, January 2, 1998

<http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/OBITUARY-Jack-Early-3016424>

Jack Early, a Telegraph Hill community crusader, who was responsible for creating one of San Francisco's most charming mini-parks, died Tuesday at Seton Medical Center in Daly City. He was 82.

On a rocky ridge of Telegraph Hill that the city considered unusable, Mr. Early single-handedly created a tiny spot of greenery that is now named for him — the Jack E. Early Park.

"It's the biggest little park in town," he said in a 1995 interview. "I've been working on it for 33 years."

During all that time, Mr. Early had to trudge up 60 stairs to the verdant perch he created at the crest of Pfeiffer Street, off Grant Avenue near Francisco St.

A direct descendant of General Jubal Early of the Confederate States Army during the Civil War, Jack Early was a classmate of Herb Caen's in Sacramento, where they worked together on the school newspaper.

An advertising man for most of his life, he was president of his own San Francisco-based company, Early Marketing. But it was as an urban conservationist that he made his mark, and it was the work of which he was most proud.

Over the years, he had planted and maintained some two dozen trees on Pfeiffer Street, a two-block long alley between Grant Avenue and Stockton Street.

In 1962, Mr. Early saw potential in a strip of city-owned hillside at the end of the block where he lived on "Alcatraz Heights," his nickname for the scenic north slope of Telegraph Hill.

After winning clearance from the city, he planted shrubs and trees, including a eucalyptus and a Monterey pine. He hauled buckets of water up the hill to nurture them and got developer Cal Rossi, then building a clutch of expensive condos next door, to provide old railroad ties for steps.

The stairway retreat was dedicated in 1987.

Mr. Early's efforts won him an award from San Francisco Beautiful, and in 1994 he was nominated for an environmental prize offered by Friends of the Urban Forest.

"Jack Early Park stands as an inspiration to all would-be urban foresters," wrote Bob Tibbits, president of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers.

He is survived by his brother, Jubal C. Early of Placerville. No memorial service is planned and, in his will, written last July; Mr. Early requested only a simple inscription on his tombstone to read: "My Last Ad."

Mr. Early's friends and colleagues on Telegraph Hill suggest memorial contributions to a conservation charity, preferably one dedicated to the planting of trees.

From The Chronicle

March 26, 2013

<http://blog.sfgate.com/cityinsider/2013/03/26/new-trees-plaque-to-be-unveiled-in-washington-square/>

New trees, plaque to be unveiled in Washington Square

Despite his last name, the spending of the late Jack Early's \$100,000 bequest to the Telegraph Hill Dwellers has come very, very slowly. Early — a San Francisco advertising man, well-known Telegraph Hill resident and parks crusader — died in 1998 at the age of 82 and left the sizable chunk of money to the group for parks, trees, new trash cans and other purposes.

Just a third of it has been spent over the course of 15 years, including \$20,000 shortly after his death to improve Pioneer Park near Coit Tower. On Tuesday, it'll be unveiled that another \$4,000 has been spent on five new pine trees and a plaque commemorating Early in Washington Square.

At the 11 a.m. event, John Duggan, owner of Original Joe's, will reveal the ingredients of a new



Jack Early

PHOTO: CHRONICLE LEGACY PHOTO

cocktail called Early Spring that he's serving at the restaurant. "Jack was a bit of a drinker," acknowledged Jon Golinger, president of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers.

Golinger will also announce that the group will spend another \$5,000 in Early's money, if local residents cough up that same amount in private funds sometime this spring. The hoped for \$10,000 will go toward planting more evergreen trees around the neighborhood.

From Herb Kosovitz

I first knew Jack slightly from meeting him and his cronies at the bar before THD dinners in the 1970s and '80s. We developed a closer relationship when the project to build condos at Francisco and Grant got underway. Because of the large size of the parcels involved, the usual regulations for setbacks, etc., didn't apply. THD formed a committee to represent us with the developer, Cal Rossi. Jack and I were on that committee, and had many meetings with Rossi, his architects and landscape architects. One of the requirements was that Rossi would develop the stub end of Pfeiffer (east of Grant) as a public park, which was to include landscaped stairs leading to an observation platform at the top. This was, of course, Jack's baby, because he'd been planting trees there for some time.

All went well until the time came to establish the platform's height. Our committee met at the site with concerned neighbors from the north side of Chestnut Street, whose properties abutted the park. Most of them had wanted the city to abandon the stub end of Pfeiffer so that they could purchase the ground and avoid having a public park between them and their views to the north. Our committee (I'm ashamed to admit) caved-in to the pressure to keep the platform close to the ground, but not Jack. He located the Planning Department's directive that the platform was to have a view over the roofs of the proposed condos, and thereby saved the day. That's why it's worth a climb up the stairs today to reach the elevated platform.

Naming the park was the other sensitive item. Jack wanted it to be called Alcatraz Heights Park, THD wanted Pfeiffer Street Park. So we hemmed and hawed until Jack said words to the effect that it could be called Jack Early Park. I seconded that, and so it went. After that he often called on me to be his spokesman when something needed to be called to the attention of the developer or the Planning Department. We remained friends until his death, when his most generous gifts to the neighborhood were revealed. Some people were put off by his somewhat gruff exterior; it masked a warm heart.

From Nancy Thompson and Andy Kerr

I've lived on Pfeiffer Street since 1985. When I

moved in next door to Jack Early, he welcomed me with his calling card indicating that we lived in Alcatraz Heights. I believe he made up the name for our little area.

Jack was a very pleasant neighbor, and always had cocker spaniels as companions. He loved the neighborhood and was willing to let us use his parking spaces when we had company. On a small street with limited parking, that was a very generous offer.

He loved the environment and maintained the gardens in the open space at Pfeiffer and Grant. When the condominium complex was built there, a little park was set aside for public use. Eventually it was named Jack Early Park in his honor. Neighbors on Pfeiffer Street still take turns opening and closing the park daily.

Jack was a charming gentleman and when my husband moved here with me in 1996, we both enjoyed our years as his neighbors.

From Russ Pratt

Jack was the glue that made ICSC (International Council of Shopping Centers) grow in San Francisco. He was tireless in his efforts, very near to the beginning of the organization, and a dedicated supporter of our group of beginning developers, brokers, etc. He was great for us because he could get done in the organization what we wanted. He had a wry and somewhat cynical sense of humor due to so many long years in the S.F. political scene. I recall how much it affected us when he could no longer handle the ICSC workload. If I recall correctly, his interest in the park was somewhat unusual, slightly out of character, given his work in the sort of political and public-relations bowels of the S.F. scene. It is nice that this occurrence caused you and me to remember him.

From John Riordan

I went to the inauguration of Jack's park (or to a celebration of the inauguration of it of which there were many). I remember his dog and at least one successor to it, but not their names.

Equally unforgettable was his devotion to his favorite beverages (of which there never seemed to be enough). Jack handled most of our meetings in California working with Jess Wolf and when Jess left we made some significant positive changes in the arrangements both for Jack and ICSC. A character of the classic mold. I always enjoyed Jack, could have big, but never unpleasant, disagreements with him, but learned a lot in the process.

The park is a slope next to a staircase that had become, frankly, a trash pile to which Jack took umbrage and set about to correct. Great to know he is still appreciated for his zeal in undertaking to quite literally clean things up.

continued on page 10

A PLAQUE FOR JACK

Nearly two years after the planting of five beautiful evergreen trees in Washington Square, THD celebrated the installation of a bronze plaque in the Stockton Street sidewalk near those trees. The late Jack Early, through a large bequest made to his favorite neighborhood organization, donated funds for the trees and asked that we “Keep the Hill Green!” We hear you, Jack! We’re doin’ it! Thank you!

Many people helped along the way: Gerry Crowley, former THD president, assisted Jack’s estate in clarifying the bequest; Ken Maley of the Friends of Washington Square helped negotiate with the city’s bureaucracy so that THD and Rec & Park (Recreation and Park Department) could plant the trees and DPW

(Department of Public Works) could install the plaque; landscape architect Craig Heckman hand-picked the best trees at the best nurseries; Danny Macchiarini, local bronze artist, designed the plaque; Mohammed Nuru of DPW instructed the agency to pay for its installation; and DPW’s Cement Shop, especially Krystal Givens, did a spectacular job installing it. The idea to spend some of Jack’s “Evergreen” fund came from former THD President Jon Golinger. Judy Irving, chair of our Parks, Trees and Birds Committee, shepherded the project with the help of Abigail Maher and Marianne Bertuccelli of Rec & Park and Nick Elsner of DPW.

Consider a bequest to the Telegraph Hill Dwellers. You, too, will be remembered and celebrated! ♦



Early plaque event

ALL PHOTOS: JON GOLINGER



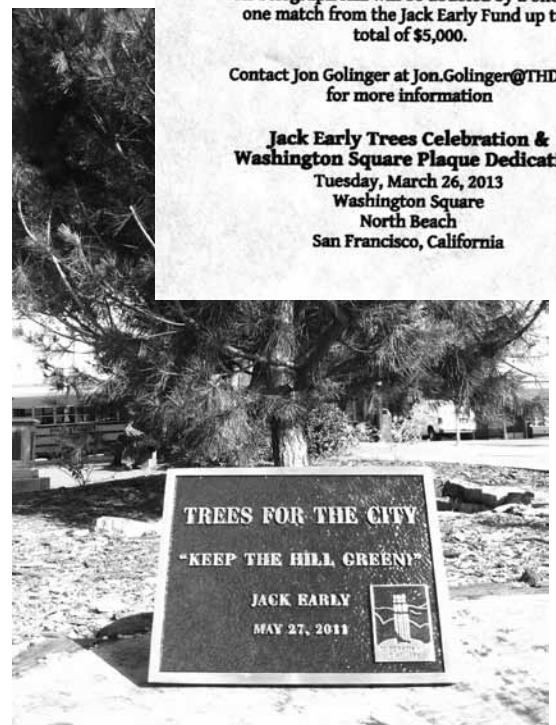
North Beach artist Danny Macchiarini describes the creative process he used to create the “Keep the Hill Green” plaque



Worker with the Department of Public Works carefully prepares the Stockton Street sidewalk for the Jack Early plaque installation



THD Vice-President Judy Irving joins Herb Kosovitz, a friend of Jack Early’s, in front of one of the thriving Jack Early trees



Above: The Early event flyer with the ingredients for the Early Spring cocktail. Below: Jack Early trees plaque in front of one of the trees planted by THD with his bequest

Cocktails

Jack “Early Spring” at Original Joe’s
1 1/2 oz Brandy (a Jack favorite)
1/4 oz Maraschino Liqueur
1/4 oz Triple Sec
1/4 oz Fresh Lemon Juice
garnished with “tree” of green

Why?

To celebrate the late Telegraph Hill neighborhood activist Jack Early and his tireless dedication to parks and trees (and to raising a glass now & then)

Why Now?

To mark the official unveiling of a plaque next to Washington Square which was created by North Beach artist Danny Macchiarini to commemorate the group of five thriving big trees in Washington Square that were planted in May, 2011 to replace removed and fallen trees because of a generous neighborhood tree-planting bequest left by Jack Early in care of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers.

What’s Next?

Telegraph Hill Dwellers has created a “Keep The Hill Green” matching fund to encourage donations this spring for tree-planting in North Beach and on Telegraph Hill. Donations made this spring (by June 20th) to THD for evergreen tree-planting in North Beach and on Telegraph Hill will be doubled by a one-to-one match from the Jack Early Fund up to a total of \$5,000.

Contact Jon Golinger at Jon.Golinger@THD.org for more information

Jack Early Trees Celebration & Washington Square Plaque Dedication
Tuesday, March 26, 2013
Washington Square
North Beach
San Francisco, California

Jack Early Tribute *continued from page 9*

From Nick Javaras

Like Russ mentioned, Jack was very smooth. We never had a glitch in any of our accommodations or lunches (his main responsibility) or in our programs, which he oversaw. Mostly though, I remember Jack as quite the character. He really represented “old San Francisco” in his manners and aura. Especially at the bar. That is where Jack shined!

I used to look forward to hanging out with Jack after the “rush” of events was over and relax over a cocktail with him. Of course, I wasn’t the only one. Jack could always attract a crowd of friends, so he was the magnet for a very congenial afternoon of reminiscing. Jack enjoyed his cocktails after a hard day’s work. I can’t imagine an easier and more competent person to have helped us out in the very early and formative years of our organization.

From John Reininga

Jack was a tireless worker, but seamless in his methods. Everything he managed to organize went smoothly (at least from our point of view). I do remember that in the early years we referred to Jack as the “master

publicist.” He seemed to know everybody in the San Francisco world of movers and shakers.

I do remember that we used to rib Jack about the less than sterling lunches that we received at our conferences. We told Jack that the ICSC had enough money to upgrade our lunches, so could you please help us out on this. The next lunch we had we were delivered a fabulous salad with avocado and shrimp. We commented to Jack that this was a good improvement. Little did we know that it was the entree and not just the opening salad course. He, of course, came around to our table and asked about the improved lunches and we had to laugh and rib him once again.

From Judith Robinson Remembering Jack Early

Jack was a classic and unique San Franciscan. At first glance, he might appear a bit crusty and curmudgeonly, but when one saw the twinkle in his eyes, one knew that there was humor and warmth behind them! He had a wry, to-the-point sense of humor, succinctly expressed. Dubbing the near-top of Telegraph

Hill “Alcatraz Heights” said it well. He was intelligent, thoughtful and observant of his fellow creatures.

He also had a soft spot for them. He collected used Christmas cards for many years and sent them to be re-used by needful organizations worldwide.

His devotion to the city and Telegraph Hill was manifest in his spearheading creation of Jack Early Park on the Hill and his generous bequest to beautify the neighborhood. We were lucky to have him in our midst. Thanks, Jack, for carrying on your good works in perpetuity.

From Rita Pisciotta

I remember . . . I remember the rocky hillside with wild flowers and the sweet scent of tall fennel. Where the boys built forts and dreamed of faraway places. Where the girls dared not tread as they gazed up the rocky slope at that beautiful hillside overlooking the bay.

Thank you, Jack Early, for helping to preserve a small place where childhood memories dwell.

That place is now Jack Early Park. ♦

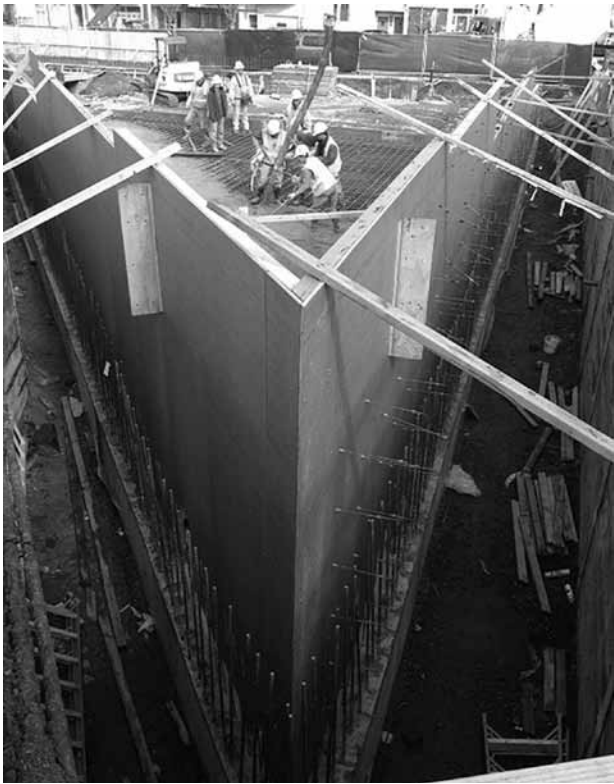
ON OUR WAY – NORTH BEACH’S NEW PUBLIC LIBRARY BRANCH

By Robert Carlson
Library Branch Manager

With great anticipation, North Beach is on schedule to get a new, revitalized branch library. The new building will be located at 701 Lombard St., a triangular space directly across from the existing library at Mason and Columbus. North Beach richly deserves a library that is accessible to all. Over the past several years, the library has had to present children’s story times and other programs in the Joe DiMaggio Playground Club House, a block away, because of ADA issues at the branch. By replacing the outdated and inefficient library with a new building, North Beach will receive an accessible and safe building with the library services it deserves. The new building will be built “green” and designed to meet a LEED Silver certification and include a public art feature, a sound installation created by local artist Bill Fontana. It is scheduled to open in 2014.

The new library will reflect the demands of our dense urban neighborhood with updated technology, more materials in multiple languages and dedicated rooms for children, teenagers and adults, allowing space to read and enjoy. Personally, I am looking forward to the community meeting room, which will provide space for neighborhood groups as well as a variety of library events that I worked to establish over the past 13 years.

For more than a decade, *The North Beach Poetry Series* featured readings by established poets and performers, many of them local, including San Francisco Poet Laureates such as Jack Hirschman. It was a pro-



Construction is under way at the North Beach Library PHOTO: ROBERT CARLSON
gram I took great pride in organizing as it achieved a Bay Area reputation in the literary community. I can’t wait to restart the series in the new library.
At another library more than 15 years ago, I co-founded *The Sit-Down Readers’ Theatre*, which meets monthly on Saturday afternoons at the Club House.

This is not a discussion group. Works such as “*Hamlet*” or the poetry of Emily Dickinson are simply read aloud. Sometimes an epiphany is reached in that the reading aloud of an author in a group setting can trigger a whole new appreciation of the work. Of course, there is discussion during breaks and often afterward at a nearby café. Scripts are provided.
The North Beach Library continues to offer other events such as traditional and contemporary Chinese dance performances, regular teen and children’s programs, including a popular Legos club and a K-6th grade homework help (volunteer tutors always needed). The S.F. Public Library through its website (sfpl.org) offers a wide variety of downloadable e-Books, e-Audio books, music and videos free with a library card.
As a community partner, I have worked with, been a member, or developed relationships with all the North Beach community organizations. I would especially extend my thanks to North Beach Citizens and S.F. Police Department’s Central Station for their assistance in addressing issues in and around the library. My son is both an alumni of the Telegraph Hill Neighborhood Center and Saints Peter & Paul Salesian School. One of our recent front window displays was celebrating the 200th issue of THD’s quarterly publication, *The Semaphore*.
Over the years I have thoroughly enjoyed working in the North Beach community. I look forward to many more years of doing so as I have a wonderful staff eager to assist and a new library coming soon!



Exhibit in the North Beach Library window celebrating the 200th issue of THD’s quarterly publication, *The Semaphore*. PHOTO AND EXHIBIT CREATED BY SEMAPHORE EDITOR, CATHERINE ACCARDI



Robert Carlson at work PHOTO: DENNIS HEARNE



By Carlo Arreglo

International Migratory Bird Day was on May 11, so by the time you read this millions of birds will have traveled hundreds, if not thousands, of miles from their southern wintering grounds to breeding grounds in the Northern Hemisphere. Some of these birds may have alighted in our neck of the woods. What part can you play to help birds on their spring and fall migrations?
Because many of these birds travel at night, particularly small passerines, or songbirds, they may fly toward lights in urban areas and collide with buildings. Shield your windows at night with drapes or shades. If you work in a tall downtown building, consider asking the building owner or manager to turn off non-essential lights during spring and fall migration. For more information, see <http://www.goldengateaudubon.org/wp-content/uploads/Fact-Sheet.pdf>
One of the main pleasures of migration is the excitement over which birds may show up and when. Warblers, raptors, tanagers, orioles, flycatchers — all are on the move and stand out from our resident chick-

PARKS, TREES & BIRDS REPORT



adees, sparrows, bushtits and juncos because of their passing brevity and beauty. With anthropogenic climate change, tracking the arrival of migratory birds can help scientists determine if birds are coming earlier to their habitats compared with years past. If you want to participate in citizen science, or you have family members becoming interested in science and the natural world, then consider entering your data in eBird.
Though we do not get the numbers and diversity of birds found around the western part of the city, Telegraph Hill is between Sue Bierman Park and Fort Mason Community Garden, two spots well-known to local birders. One notable bird that I came upon was a Nashville Warbler, back on April 8. This uncommon warbler, with a gray hood, white eye-ring and yellow throat, could be indicative of the diversity coming through here, if we keep our eyes open and share our sightings.
One way to do that would be join me on a bird walk. Indeed, Feathered Fridays is now morphing into a Golden Gate Audubon Society bird walk! This is an exciting opportunity as our ’hood will join the line-up of

free bird walks offered throughout the city and the East Bay. Information on a bird walk can be found below.
What: Golden Gate Audubon Society Bird Walk
Where: North Beach/Telegraph Hill, San Francisco
When: Friday, May 31 (also June 28), 8:30–10 a.m.
Contact: Carlo Arreglo, 415-533-7081, arregloc@gmail.com
Experience North Beach and Telegraph Hill in a different way in this walk for birders of all ages and levels. Beginners are especially welcome! We’ll start at the Coit Tower parking lot and make our way around Telegraph Hill, including a descent and ascent of the Greenwich and Filbert steps. We’ll look for resident and migratory birds while taking in some great views of two stunning bridges.
Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Coit Tower parking lot. You can park your vehicle there or look for street parking. Alternatively, the 39-Coit bus stops at Coit Tower.

HELP THE ‘HOOD Shop Locally



RESTAURANT REVIEW

BARCELONA BY THE BAY



By Carol Peterson
COQUETA
The Embarcadero, Pier 5
San Francisco, CA 94105
415-704-8866
<http://www.coquetasf.com>

With the 150th anniversary of the Port of San Francisco upon us, we have much to celebrate.

Our waterfront is home to a jewel of a ballpark, the new Exploratorium, a state-of-the-art cruise terminal and the excitement of the America's Cup. Now, without much fanfare, a very special restaurant has landed in our neighborhood: Michael Chiarello's Coqueta.

Chef Michael comes to San Francisco on the heels of his successful wine country restaurant, Bottega, which was awarded a place on the *Chronicle's* list of top 100 restaurants in its first year of operation. This was only the most recent of Chef Michael's accolades. Shortly after graduating from the Culinary Institute in New York and opening a restaurant in Miami, he was named Chef of the Year by *Food and Wine Magazine*. Ten years later, the Culinary Institute of America awarded him the same honor. The chef has ventured into television on PBS and The Food Network with his shows garnering three Emmy awards. He also writes cookbooks. Perusing one, I learned more about cooking in the first 20 pages than I have ever learned from any other cookbook. Reading it, I became aware of the chefs philosophy of cooking: "Food should tell a story with a sense of taste and place."

At this time in his life, however, Chef Michael has come back to his first love: running a restaurant. He is doing it by covering all the bases. He owns a sustainable 20-acre farm in the wine country, which supplies much of the produce for his ventures. Referring to Coqueta, he told me, "Spanish cuisine is more challenging than my Italian cuisine at Bottega, as I have been more careful about keeping to true tradition. Though," he admits, "I have added some vegetables for Californians, as you have to practically beg for a vegetable in Spain."

The restaurant is divided into two sections. Michael acquired the small building next to Pier 5, a dilapidated structure with awnings, and turned it into a glass-enclosed room with views of the bay and the Embarcadero. The room houses Coqueta's bar as well as space for casual dining. The main dining room,

which is entered through this area, is located in the bulkhead building and features a seating bar where one can watch the goings on in the kitchen.

The menu is uncomplicated, but intense. The first option is one of the beautifully presented, sliced, in-house cured meat and Iberian cheese plates. Although we didn't try one of these platters, on our next trip we will go with friends and order the large El Plat Cap that comes with olive oil tortas and pan de cristal con tomate, the only bread Coqueta serves (the chef explained that bread is not traditionally served in Spain). This bread is made locally by Panorama Bakery for Coqueta. The only other bakery making it is in Barcelona.

Chef Michael has an innovative winner in his "minis." These one-bite offerings are ordered or taken from a beautiful board, passed around by a server. Of the five offered, I found the Chorizo, roasted artichoke and piquillo peppers delectable, with the artichoke and peppers providing a creamy, rich texture that buffered the chewy, but tender, chorizo. Another favorite was the Quail egg Diablo. The delicate tiny egg paired beautifully with the pickled mustard seed and small piece of

Serrano ham.

Keeping with tradition, the restaurant serves both hot and cold tapas. Of the cold tapas, two really stand out. Hands down the restaurant's most winning dish is Ensalada resorte. The preparation comes in a glass with a vibrant and silky English green pea emulsion at the bottom layered with spring vegetables, sieved egg and Serrano ham croutons. Another favorite, the Delta asparagus, is both beautiful and flavorful. The large stalks are trimmed to the delicate white and are poached in olive oil, then topped with grated smoky Idiazabal goat cheese and Serrano ham bits and accompanied by piquillo pepper aioli.

Of the hot tapas, the wood-grilled octopus is scrumptious. It is fired on the grill, with the body firm, but tender, and the tentacles crispy. This dish is served with roasted fingerling potatoes, drizzled with olive oil and dusted with pimento powder. Another stand-out: the sunny side-up egg dish, with shrimp, crispy potato and chorizo dressing. As Chef Michael says, "I've always believed anything goes for breakfast, so breakfast should go at any time, too." I believe him.

Among the entrées, the winner is the mouth-watering Pluma, a pork shoulder loin imported from Spain especially for Chef Michael. This is the most expensive dish on the menu, but can be shared, which makes it the least expensive of the entrees. The preparation time is 30 minutes, but the time goes by quickly when you are eating tapas. This tender loin, easily cut with your fork, has a honey-chili glaze.

The minis are again offered for dessert, a smart idea, as sometimes one only wants a bite after a full meal. We ordered the mini cheesecake. It comes on a little stick and is covered with caramel icing and three small pieces of caramel corn on top. With its aftertaste of caramel, it offers a very attractive creamy two bites. On another visit we tried the apple pie with blue cheese ice cream. The crust of the pie is a small flaky rectangle filled with tart-like layered apples. This is topped with the ice cream, which has a subtle taste of blue cheese. The perfect marriage. I asked Chef Michael about this creation and he said, "I've always loved apple pie with a good chunk of cheddar, so I decided to try a twist on that."

With the arrival of Coqueta, neighbors have reason to rejoice. We have a super-star chef and a super-star restaurant at a super-star location. The Embarcadero just keeps getting better and better.



Nicole Elwick, manager of Coqueta, with mini bites
PHOTOS: CAROL PETERSON

'UNSUNG HEROES' OF THE SEMAPHORE

By Catherine Accardi

As of this month, I have now been editor of *The Semaphore* for one year. How about that! It has been a busy year at the editor's desk, certainly it has been a labor of love. Along those lines, this one year has given me the pleasure of working with two very capable people. They would be William G. (Willie) Pates, our dedicated copy editor, and Chris Carlsson, our long-time *Semaphore* typesetting and design person. I like to call Chris an artist because each issue I am thoroughly impressed with his final creation, a creation that results in our beloved quarterly publication.

So, it has been a year now and I cannot let my two working partners go unrecognized, thus, the following tributes to Willie Pates and Chris Carlsson, the unsung heroes of *The Semaphore*.



Willie Pates
PHOTO: JUDITH WILSON-PATES

Willie Pates was born in San Francisco on Nov. 22, 1946, a fourth-generation San Franciscan. He grew up in Forest Hill, attended West Portal School, Herbert Hoover Jr. High and Lincoln High School, City College of San Francisco and then San Francisco State College.

Willie became inter-

ested in journalism at age 9 when he read about the Christmas floods of 1955 in Yuba City and Marysville. While at Lincoln High, he spent two years on its publication, the Lincoln Log as a sports writer, sports editor and managing editor. While at City College, Willie was on the Guardsman for three years also as sports writer, sports editor and managing editor, then political columnist at age 19.

On June 10, 1964, he began working as a copy boy at the *Chronicle*, and, after graduating from S.F. State in 1969, began working fulltime. In 1975, Pates worked for columnist Charles McCabe while McCabe's regular aide, Mike Brown, was writing in Ireland.

Next came a position as editorial assistant in the *Chronicle's* Sacramento bureau for three years. On his return to San Francisco in 1979, Willie was employed for one decade as one of the main news copy editors, and became editor of letters to the editor in 1989.

Aug. 31, 2007 brought retirement as a second-generation *Chronicle* career "lifer," following in the footsteps of his father, Gordon Pates, who retired in 1979 after 40 years at the paper.

Willie Pates has lived in North Beach since February 1979, first in Edith Alley and now on Medau Place. He has been a long-time member of THD, and a valued member of The Semaphore staff as copy editor since 2011.

Chris Carlsson is a writer, San Francisco historian, professor, bicyclist, tour guide, blogger, photographer, book and magazine designer. He's lived in San Francisco since 1978 and has been self-employed in



Chris Carlsson
PHOTO: CHRIS CARLSSON

various capacities since the early 1980s.

Chris has written two books ("*After the Deluge*," "*Nowtopia*"), edited six books ("*Reclaiming San Francisco*," "*The Political Edge*," "*Bad Attitude*," "*Critical Mass: Bicycling's Defiant Celebration*," "*Ten Years That Shook the City: San Francisco, 1968-78*" and "*Shift Happens! Critical Mass at 20*"), and co-authored the expanded second edition of "*Vanished Waters: The History of San Francisco's Mission Bay*." He helped co-found Critical Mass in September, 1992, and has ridden with Critical Mass rides in a dozen cities on three continents since then. His book "*Nowtopia*," along with his role in Critical Mass, has propelled him into extended world travels since 2002, and he has had three of his books translated and published in Italy.

Chris' frequent public appearances are well-represented online at YouTube and in various radio and audio archives. He has directed *Shaping San Francisco* since its inception in the mid-1990s, and continues to be co-director of the archive of San Francisco history at *FoundSF.org*.



ART & CULTURE COMMITTEE



By Richard Zimmerman
Chair, THD Art & Culture Committee

Julie Jaycox, the Art and Culture chair for more than four years, has stepped down. Julie became the face of the North Beach art world during her tenure as chair. Her tireless work made ArtWalk a must-do event. She encouraged and aided local artists to exhibit their work, often donating freely of her time. THD and the North Beach art community thank Julie for her extraordinary efforts over the past years.

The Art & Culture Committee will meet on

Wednesday, June 5, at 7:00 p.m. in Canessa Gallery, 708 Montgomery St. to reorganize and plan for the coming year. While the agenda has yet to be decided, it will include discussion of possible opportunities for artists to exhibit their work this year and ideas for salons. Please contact me at artandculture@thd.org with questions and ideas. Hope to see you at the meeting.

There are two current shows at SFMOMA that are extremely interesting. One, "The Clock" by Christian Marclay, consists of segments of videos that feature time – think "High Noon." The segments are joined to

unfold in real time. The show covers a 24-hour period. You might want to schedule several visits to see the entire show.

The second show, "Garry Winogrand," has many previously unprinted photos of his work. Winogrand, a "street photographer," is generally regarded as one of the more important photographers of the 20th century. Both shows end on June 2.



S.F. HISTORY EXPO AT THE OLD MINT

The Third Annual San Francisco History Expo at the Old Mint on March 2 and 3, 2013 was a big success. Here are some photographs of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers' Exhibit Room, which featured a celebration marking the 200th issue of *The Semaphore* and a collection of photographs of the historic Coit Tower murals, which urgently need restoration, preservation and protection.

Thanks to Jon Golinger, Catherine Accardi, Dennis Hearne, Tom Noyes, Scott Elliot, Elizabeth Ashcroft and many other volunteers for donating their time and talents to make this year's exhibit worthy of our special neighborhood.



San Francisco History Expo volunteers (left to right: Tom Noyes, Catherine Accardi, Michael Accardi, Scott Elliot and Jon Golinger)
PHOTO CREDIT: DENNIS HEARNE



THD's tables at the History Expo
PHOTO CREDIT: JON GOLINGER

GARAGE UNDER WASHINGTON SQUARE

By June Osterberg

When city decision-makers decided to add a North Beach branch of the Central Subway to their Downtown/Chinatown underground project, they clearly ignored or were unaware of previous schemes to invade the heart of our famous community. No cautionary tales for them. No second thoughts or concern about the impact on those most affected.

The proposal long ago, that could be called a precedent and enraged the citizenry, was the brazen plan to dig up historic Washington Square and build a 535-car parking garage underneath. It was in the 1960s. The idea created an uproar, just as City Hall's current bulldozer mentality and activities have done. The Telegraph Hill Dwellers was young then, but it played a prominent role in the outcome of the controversy.

For an example of the crazed attitudes in those years — to build freeways and provide parking even in significant sites — one need only look at Portsmouth Square in Chinatown. It is where San Francisco began. This square of gray concrete on Kearny Street formerly was a glorious emerald green expanse of open space. It became the Portsmouth Square Garage without much protest.

When influential people gazed upon Washington Square as a place to park automobiles, the proposal encountered resistance. It pitted merchants against residents, drivers against walkers. The latter didn't fancy the notion of a neighborhood park with constantly cir-

cling vehicles.

Both the old and new proposals were promoted by nonresidents. Both plans were billed as a boon and promised not to have an undesirable impact. Instead of the pro-development city administration of today with its determination to proceed with the destruction of North Beach, however, the mayor in the earlier fight was John F. Shelley, and he listened to the protests.

City agencies, including the San Francisco Parking Authority, the Recreation and Park Commission and the Planning Commission, voted in favor of the garage. Opponents, including THD, the Sierra Club and San Francisco Beautiful, wrote letters, printed flyers, and trouped to meetings to voice their disapproval.

The *San Francisco Chronicle*, then a family-owned newspaper, ran an editorial on May 27, 1966, headlined, "No Real Need for This Garage." One letter to the editor on the controversy, said, "The garage will not help the business of the vulgar topless shows on Broadway since patrons of these are not even now filling the Portsmouth Square Garage at night. This is not progress; it is vandalism. It is beyond comprehension that city officials not try to save some of the city's character and open spaces."

As the battle continued, there were some memorable occurrences. An astonishing one happened in my flat near the park. My close friend and I were having dinner when the doorbell rang. He answered the door and found a member of the Planning Commission and

his wife waiting. They had taken the trouble to come and see for themselves what the commotion was about. Bob invited them in to have a glass of wine. As they left, they looked out at the park and said, "Now we understand why people want to save the park."

The planning commissioner, who was the head of Macy's, voted against the garage project. Unfortunately, he was in the minority. Then it was time for the Board of Supervisors to act.

As the *Chronicle* story by Mel Wax (who later wrote his own account of the long-running battle, in the magazine *Cry California*) stated, Mayor Shelley "put his political credit on the line yesterday."

"This has all the earmarks of skulduggery," Jack Shelley said of the 3-to-2 vote at the Supervisors' Finance Committee.

On September 26, 1966, the board voted 6-to-5 to build the garage. That meant that Shelley's only recourse was the veto. The mayor showed his mettle, vetoed the measure, and the board's garage proponents could not muster the votes to push it through. That is how the destructive garage plan was defeated. The mayor was a hero to many.

When he ran for re-election, however, he was cast aside by his own party, in part because of the veto. That meeting is not a happy memory. That was how — after a whirlwind campaign — Joseph L. Alioto became the mayor of San Francisco.



MEET YOUR NEW THD BOARD MEMBERS

At our April 22 THD Annual Meeting and Membership Dinner, the board of directors slate for 2013-2014 was voted on and approved as follows:

Officers

PRESIDENT: Vedica Puri
VICE PRESIDENT: Judy Irving*
RECORDING SECRETARY: Mary Lipian
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Andy Katz
TREASURER: Tom Noyes*
FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Scott Elliott
HISTORIAN: Nancy Shanahan
PAST PRESIDENT: Jon Golinger
SEMAPHORE EDITOR: Catherine Accardi*

Directors: Term 2013-2015

Mike Sonn
Mike Madrid
Stan Hayes*
Richard Zimmerman

Directors: Term 2012-2014

Lynn Sanchez**
Julie Jaycox**
Dan Sullivan**
Al Fontes+

+ Director whose term has not expired

* Incumbent nominated to stand for re-election

** Nominated to fill the remainder of an unexpired term

Effective May 1, our new board members are Mike Madrid, Mike Sonn, Dan Sullivan, and Richard Zimmerman.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By Scott Elliott

THD Membership Chair

Hello neighbors. My name is Scott Elliott and I have taken over the job of Membership Committee chairman, which involves keeping track of members, collecting dues and recruiting new members. I am passionate about THD because the organization has done so much good work for our neighborhood and the city. Telegraph Hill and North Beach have maintained their beauty and unique character largely due to the activities of THD. Our membership is now around 550 strong — down slightly from previous years — and I would like to see many more neighbors get involved.

The board and I are now in the beginning stages of a new member recruitment campaign, and I hope you will support us. In fact, I would very much like to have some volunteers on my Membership Committee. It would be a fun way for you to get to know more of your neighbors and help out. I promise it won't involve more than a few hours of your time per month. If you would like to help, please e-mail me at membership@thd.org.

THD BOARD MEETING MOTIONS FOR JANUARY 2013-MARCH 2013

Provided by Andy Katz

THD Corresponding Secretary/Former Recording Secretary

1/13 THD Board Meeting Minutes:

Motion: Joe Lutrell, Nancy Shanahan, Judy Irving, Andy Katz and Vedica Puri will make up the THD Nominating Committee for 2013. (Passes with one abstention)

Motion: Lynn Sanchez was appointed to fill Sarah Kliban's Board position. (Passes unanimously)

2/13 THD Board Meeting Minutes:

No motions

3/13 THD Board Meeting Minutes:

Motion: The THD Board approves the purchase of a speaker and microphone for \$321 with Jack Early funds. (Passes Unanimously)



Mike Madrid

Mike Madrid is returning to the Telegraph Hill Dwellers Board of Directors this year. He served on the Board as Corresponding Secretary from 2006-2008. Mike is a San Francisco native and moved to North Beach in 1985. He has lived on the Vallejo Steps for the past 20 years, where he helps maintain the gardens along with his neighbors.

Mike is a graduate of San Francisco State University and enjoyed a lengthy career as an advertising executive. He began a new career as an author in 2009 with the publication of *The Supergirls: Fashion, Feminism, & the History of Comic Book Heroines*. His next book, *Divas, Dames & Daredevils*, will be released this fall. Mike was featured in

the documentary "Wonder Women!" which recently aired on PBS' Independent Lens.

Mike has been the Telegraph Hill representative to the Community Police Advisory Board since 2012. He is also part of a group of residents, business owners, and representatives from various city agencies working to improve safety around the Broadway Corridor. Regarding his return to the Board, Mike says, "We live in one of the best areas in San Francisco. I look forward to working with my neighbors to address crime and safety issues in North Beach."



Mike Sonn

My wife and I have been living on Telegraph Hill for seven years and have loved every minute of it. Much like over half of the city, as a car-free household, we rely on our feet, Muni, bikes and taxis to get around this amazing city. As the transportation committee head, I want to make access to and around North Beach a priority.

Dan Sullivan

For the last eight years, Dan has been standing on the sidelines watching all of the great things that THD has done for the neighborhood. So when the call recently went out for Board members, Dan decided that it was time to give back to the neighborhood that he loves so much. He is excited to now be a part of the decision-making process that balances positive changes with historic conservation.



Richard Zimmerman

An avid amateur photographer, Richard has a particular interest in landscapes and seascapes. Landscape photography is a way to celebrate our environment says Richard. He has lived on the Hill for 14 years. ArtWalk 2011 was his first experience in the art world of North Beach. That experience inspired him to be more involved in the local art scene. Chairing the Art and Culture committee will be a challenging and educational next step.

Richard is an active volunteer in the effort to protect Coit Tower. A windsurfer, he was a leader in the fight to stop San Francisco International Airport from building runways in San Francisco Bay.

He is Professor emeritus at San Francisco State where he taught Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.



TREASURER'S REPORT AND THD BUDGET

By Tom Noyes

THD Treasurer

Below are the summary income and expenses for THD for fiscal year 2012, which ended March 31, 2013. We continued our good management of the budget reported last fall and ended with a small profit.

Two major factors: we increased book sales and received one large contribution. We only receive David Myrick book income when our re-sellers sell their entire stock and we received income from both of those this year. It is unlikely we will get income from either in the coming year. Our Social and Arts and Culture committees also contributed to the small profit.

The new Board of Directors will put a budget together for the new fiscal year, which will be reported in the next issue of *The Semaphore*.

THD Fiscal 2012 Summary

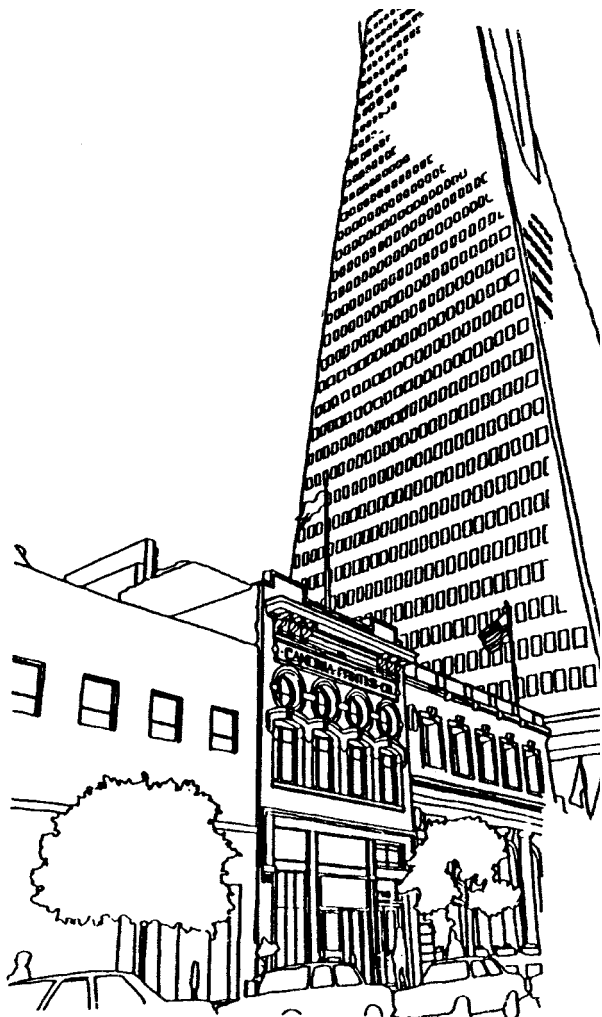
Income		
Category	Amount	Pct
Dues	\$10,415	55%
Advertising	2,555	13%
Contributions	2,925	15%
Books/Shirts	2,353	12%
Social/Other	568	3%
Interest	162	1%
Total	18,978	

Expenses		
Category	Amount	Pct
Semaphore	\$12,175	70%
Organizational	1,001	6%
Committees	1,079	7%
Insurance	1,644	7%
Utility	857	6%
Contributions	670	4%
Total	17,425	

Note: For readability in the chart below, event income, such as for the dinners and ArtWalk, is shown as a net value in Social/Other. Otherwise the total discretionary income and expense would be distorted above. For the record, total Social/Art and Culture income was \$7,445 and expenses were \$6,877.

As you can see, our largest expense for THD is the publication of *The Semaphore*. Our largest source of income is your dues – thank you! However, it would be helpful for our financial position to have more memberships and advertisers. Please help us this year to increase both sources of our revenue so we can be more active with our events and committees.





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Mike Sonn — Mike.Sonn@thd.org
Richard Zimmerman — Richard.Zimmerman@thd.org

THD COMMITTEES NEED YOU

Get involved in our neighborhood and make a difference! Contact a THD committee and help keep the Hill a special place to live.

STANDING COMMITTEES

ART & CULTURE: Richard Zimmerman (Chair) Contact Richard at Richard.Zimmerman@thd.org

BUDGET: Tom Noyes (Chair) Contact Tom at Tom.Noyes@thd.org

COMMUNICATIONS: Jon Golinger (Chair) Contact Jon at Jon.Golinger@thd.org

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PARKING & TRANSPORTATION: Mike Sonn (Chair) Contact Mike at Mike.Sonn@thd.org

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WATERFRONT: Jon Golinger (Chair) Contact Jon at Jon.Golinger@thd.org

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COALITION FOR SAN FRANCISCO NEIGHBORHOODS: Paul Weber, Merle Goldstone (Alternate)

FRIENDS OF WASHINGTON SQUARE LIAISON: TBD

NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK LIAISON: Gerry Crowley

NORTHEAST WATERFRONT ADVISORY GROUP MEMBER: Jon Golinger

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WEB SITE = www.thd.org

Visit the THD website to explore a wealth of neighborhood history and get the latest information about what's happening on the Hill.

TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS

Schedules of Committee Meetings

PLANNING & ZONING: Last Thursdays. Call for time and location. 986-7070, 563-3494, 391-5652.

Look to the THD website for information on THD events. **Log on to <http://www.thd.org>**

**THD Welcomes New Members
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NEW MEMBER INFORMATION

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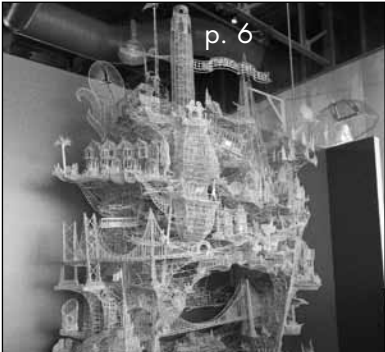
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THE SEMAPHORE
FEATURES

#202 Spring 2013

Francis I	1	A Plaque for Jack	10
North Beach Neighborhood Safety	3	On Our Way – North Beach’s New Public Library Branch.	11
60 Years of City Lights	4	Unsung Heroes of The Semaphore	12
Stout on Stout	5	S.F. History Expo at the Old Mint.	13
804 Montgomery Street — The Building	5	Garage Under Washington Square	13
Finocchio’s: The Carnegie Hall of Cross Dressing	7	Meet Your New THD Board Members	14
Jack Early Park	8	THD Budget and Treasurer’s Report	14
Jack Early Tribute	9	THD Membership Report	14

COLUMNS

The President’s Corner	2
From the Desk of Supervisor Chiu	3
Waterfront Committee Report	6
Parks, Trees & Birds Committee Report	11
Restaurant Review: Coqueta	12
Art & Culture Committee Report.	13

THD BUSINESS

Board Motions	14
Board of Directors	15
THD Committees	15
Membership Info	15
Cover: Photo View from Jack Early Park, by Julie Jaycox	

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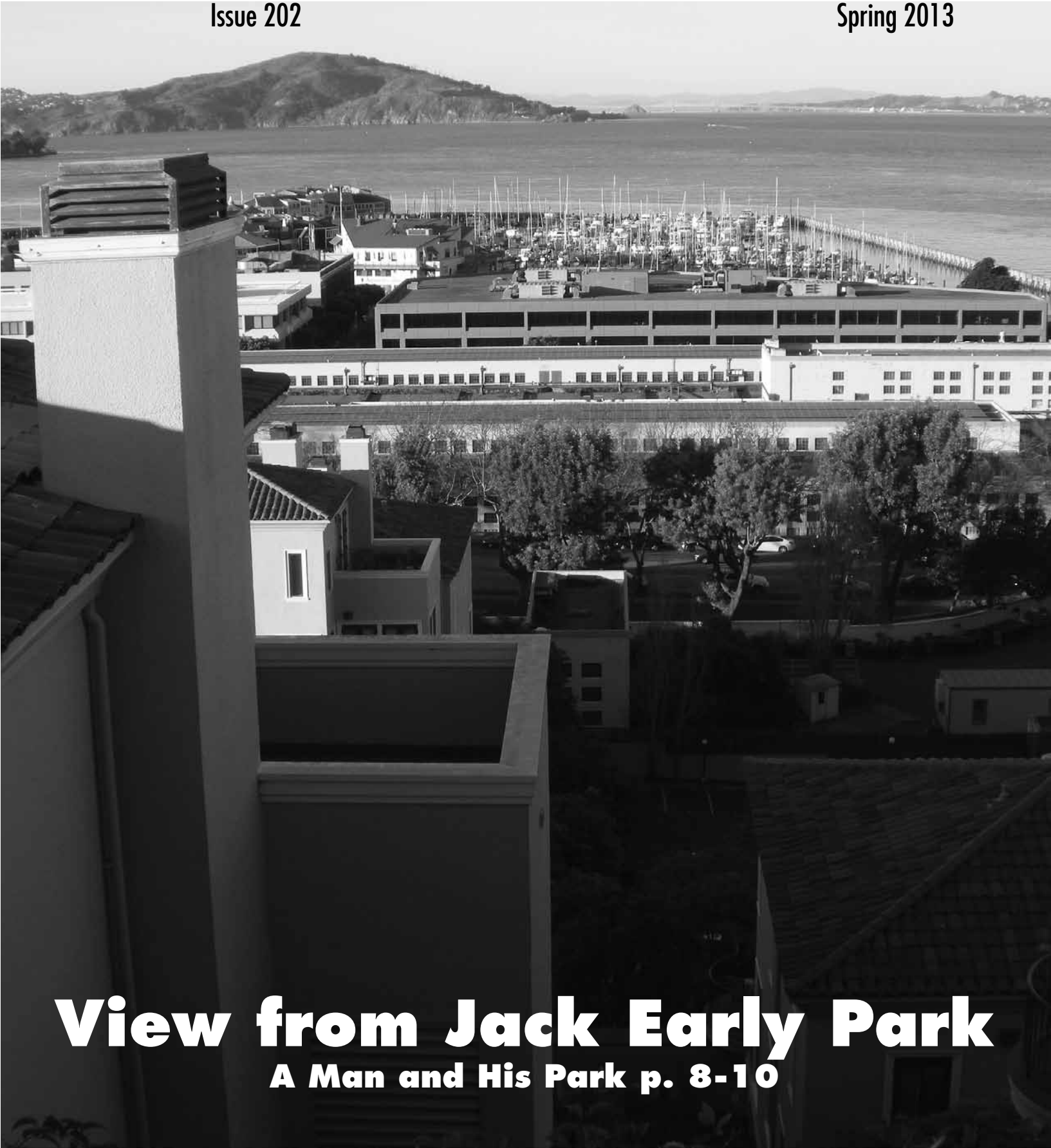
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View from Jack Early Park
A Man and His Park p. 8-10